(e) if so, the precise details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). Based on Phytosanitary Certificates issued by the Plant Quarantine & Fumigation Stations, a quantity of 792.889 MT onion seeds has been exported from Amritsar, Bombay and Hyderabad during 1.1.1989 to 31.10.1991. Other details of export of onion seeds are not readily available.

(d) and (e). No Sir.

Import of Newsprint from USSR

*228. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation has held any negations with USSR for import of newsprint during the current year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Contracts have been finalised by STC from April to December, 1991 (upto 4th December) for import of 27,830 MTs of standard newsprint from USSR against the Trade Plan provision of 70,000 tons for the calendar year.

As the full quantity provided in the Trade Plan could not be contracted, STC made efforts to secure standard newsprint from USSR outside the Trade Plan. In pursuance of this, STC has signed an MOU on 11.10.91 with a USSR newsprint producing company for import of 40,000 tons of standard newsprint under Counter Trade. Payment of newsprint is to be made in rupees which will be used by the USSR company to import from India Manufactured goods consisting of consumer goods/food/ engineering/textile/ pharmaceutical items etc. STC is to negotiate in December, 1991 with the USSR unit to finalise the contract including various terms and conditions of price etc. of this transaction.

Export of Raw Cotton

*229. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been exporting raw cotton to stabilise its prices in the domestic market;

(b) if so, whether the Government have ensured that before releasing quotas of raw cotton for export, the requirements of domestic textile industry are met fully; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE *MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK* GEHLOT): (a) The objectives of releasing quotas for export of raw cotton are stabilisation of prices in the domestic market, provision of remunerative prices to the cotton growers and to maintain India's presence in the International Market as a stable supplier.

(b) and (c). Government's endeavour is to fully meet the requirements of the domestic textile industry before releasing quotas for export of cotton.

Status of Court of Records to MRTPC

*231. SHRI M.V. CHANDRA SHEKARA MURTHY:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state: